

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-13 and 18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 14-17, 19 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Pokrzywa during the June 27, 2003 interview. In accordance with MPEP §713.04, the points discussed during the interview are incorporated in the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 1-3, 5, 7-13 and 18 are allowed. Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry after Final Rejection

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: a) place the application in condition for allowance (for all the reasons discussed herein); b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration; c) place the application in better condition for appeal (if necessary); and d) address formal requirements of the Final Rejection and preceding Office Action.

The foregoing amendments do not raise any new issues after Final Rejection. Therefore, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

II. Prior Art Rejection of Claims 14-17, 19 and 20 is Moot

The Final Office Action rejects claims 14-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,641,488 to Witek. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 14-17, 19 and 20. Withdrawal of the rejection under §103 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GWT/gwt

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 30, 2003

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